

STATE AND CITY TO PASS LAWS PUTTING CURB ON GAS TRUST.

Aldermen Ask Corporation Counsel to Define Their Powers for Passing Ordinance Putting an End to the High Handed Extortions of the Combine.

Bill Framed to Be Introduced in the Legislature Giving the City Power to Erect Its Own Lighting Plant on Blackwell's Island.

Two significant moves were made to-day in the fight which the City government, aroused by the complaints of extortion made by readers of The Evening World, has begun against the Gas Trust.

One was the adoption of a resolution by the Board of Aldermen requesting Corporation Counsel Rives to furnish an opinion as to what power the Board has to put an end to the abuses, and the other was the framing of a bill to be introduced in the Legislature at Albany giving the city power to erect and maintain its own electric lighting plant on Blackwell's Island.

ALDERMEN ASSAIL TRUST.

As soon as the Board of Aldermen met, President Fornes, who has taken up the fight against the combine with great vigor, introduced the following resolution:

Whereas, Many complaints are made by citizens as to the quality of gas furnished by the several corporations supplying the same, and also to excessive and extortionate bills rendered by the gas companies to consumers, in some instances the complaints alleging that charges for one month's consumption of gas are double and treble those of the preceding month under apparently similar conditions and uses; and that protests made at the offices of the gas companies in regard thereto are met by peremptory demands for payment of the alleged excessive bills, under a threat of depriving the complainants of such immediate necessities as lighting, cooking and heating facilities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Corporation Counsel be and is hereby respectfully requested to furnish an opinion to this board at the earliest possible date as to what powers are vested in this body to investigate the alleged abuses, and as to the authority this board may possess to remedy this matter by legislation.

As the clerk began reading the resolution spectators in the gallery applauded.

Alderman "Tim" Sullivan promptly moved the immediate adoption of the resolution. When the yeas and nays were called not a member of the Board voted in the negative.

BILL GOES TO ALBANY.

The bill, giving the Board of Estimate power to build a municipal electric light plant will be introduced in the Legislature on Wednesday. The finishing touches were put on it to-day.

All the influence of the city administration will be exerted to have the bill become a law before the present session of the Legislature closes so that no time may be lost in crushing the power of the lighting combine.

This was explained to-day by Commissioner Robert Grier Monroe. "We feel," he said, "that it is absolutely necessary to at once secure the sanction of the Legislature to our proposed municipal plant, so that no possible delay from that quarter can be set up as an excuse. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment was unanimous in the opinion that immediate legislative power be invoked so that the city would be in a position to go ahead with the work on the municipal plant following the report of Mr. Hutchinson, who has been employed to draw the plans.

QUICK ACTION IS EXPECTED.

"Our position is not as hopeless as it appeared at one time. I may say that within a very few months the city can be absolutely independent of the gas and electric combine.

"With the rejection of the gas bids by the city the combine is given plainly to understand that the city is prepared for business. I am not through with this question by any means. I want another important thing done, and that is power to demand competitive bids. Where there is no fire there must be a combine. I want bids from different gas companies without combination. These bids shall be received privately, but will be publicly discussed and finally decided upon by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Any contract thus entered into will be carefully analyzed and weighed before letting.

WOULD FEAR THE COURTS.

"In the mean time the gas companies will not dare to turn off the gas, for then we would be in a position to go into the courts and demand not only a sufficient supply of gas or electricity but a ruling by the court as to the price the city would be required to pay.

"While the present plan for municipal ownership only contemplates the building of a plant to supply our streets, avenues and public buildings with light, it is only a question of time when the public will be demanding as cheap light for themselves as the city is obtaining. Then the Legislature may empower the city to supply private consumers with light from a municipal plant."

While waiting for the Legislature to act Col. Munroe is preparing for speedy work after he gets the legal power. He has selected Blackwell's Island as the site for the municipal lighting plant. Accompanied by an expert whom he has engaged to compute the probable cost of the plant, Mr. Munroe went to Blackwell's Island, and after looking the ground over was enthusiastic over the site.

"There could not be a more perfect site for the municipal lighting plant than Blackwell's Island," Mr. Munroe said to-day. "It is right on the water front and our cables can be carried by the new bridge to Manhattan. The expert will report on the cost of the plant within a week."

Comptroller Grout has a plan by which the trust will be held in check until the lighting plant is built. The courts are to be appealed to, and the combine, hampered with over-capitalization and dirty deals of which even

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WRIGHT IS ARRAIGNED; NIECE WAITS

Miss Browne Had Merely Changed Hotels to Escape Interviewers and Comes to Court When Uncle Is Brought to Bar.

HE TELLS HIS OWN STORY.

Is Willing to Waive Extradition Proceedings and Return, He Declares, Confident in His Innocence and the Support of Influential Friends.

Whitaker Wright, the English promoter who was arrested yesterday when he arrived here on La Lorraine, charged with having swindled English investors out of \$311,000,000 through the crash of the Globe Finance Corporation two years ago, was arraigned before United States Commissioner Alexander in the Federal Building to-day.

Miss Browne, his niece, who came over with him and who disappeared from the Hotel Albemarle after being there a few hours, was present at the hearing. She came to the Federal Building with Maurice Untermyer, her counsel, a half hour before Wright was expected. She had made no effort to hide herself, as had been intimated. When she left the Albemarle she went to the Hotel Kensington, at Fifteenth street and Fifth avenue, to get away from reporters.

Counsel Asks Delay.

When the hearing began, Mr. Untermyer in behalf of Wright, asked that a few days be allowed his client to ascertain the exact character of the charges made against him. "Mr. Wright is willing," said the lawyer, "to stay these proceedings and return to-morrow, because he is confident that he can establish his innocence, but on advice of counsel he asks for a little time to look into the character of the complaint against him. The charges were made while he was on the high seas and he is in entire ignorance of them."

A. Fox, counsel for the British Consul, wanted an adjournment for two weeks to allow the papers to come from the other side. It was finally agreed to let the case go over until Wednesday, when Wright will decide whether he will waive extradition proceedings. Otherwise the case will go over until the papers arrive from England.

Wright was recommitted to Ludlow Street Jail with the injunction from his counsel not to talk. Previous to this, however, he had talked freely. Mr. Wright was not depressed by his predicament. He had all the genial manner of a good promoter. He denied wrongdoing and expressed his willingness to return to England at his own expense in the custody of a United States officer without waiting for extradition formalities if the authorities so permitted.

Indignant for Niece's Sake.

His only show of anger came at the mention of Miss Browne. He was furious at the suggestion in some of the morning papers that Miss Browne was not his niece. He solemnly said that she was his sister's daughter, and that she had come over here to visit relatives in Philadelphia.

Mr. Wright was brought down from Ludlow Street Jail to the Federal Building by United States Deputy Marshal Blake. They walked most of the way, and the Englishman seemed to enjoy looking about him. He got to the Federal Building he talked freely with a reporter for The Evening World.

Says He Is an American.

"I am an American citizen," he said, "although I am English born. I became an American when I married my wife in Philadelphia. My mother and two of my children are buried in Philadelphia."

"If there were anything wrong in my connection with this matter I would certainly make a fight against going back, but as it is I shall waive all extradition formalities and get back there as quickly as I can, at my own expense, if they will permit me."

"I have been greatly shocked by the sensational way my arrest has been treated by the newspapers—especially with reference to Miss Browne. It is a crime and a shame that the suggestion should have been made that she is not my niece. She is my niece. She is my sister's child. She is coming to this country to visit relatives in Philadelphia."

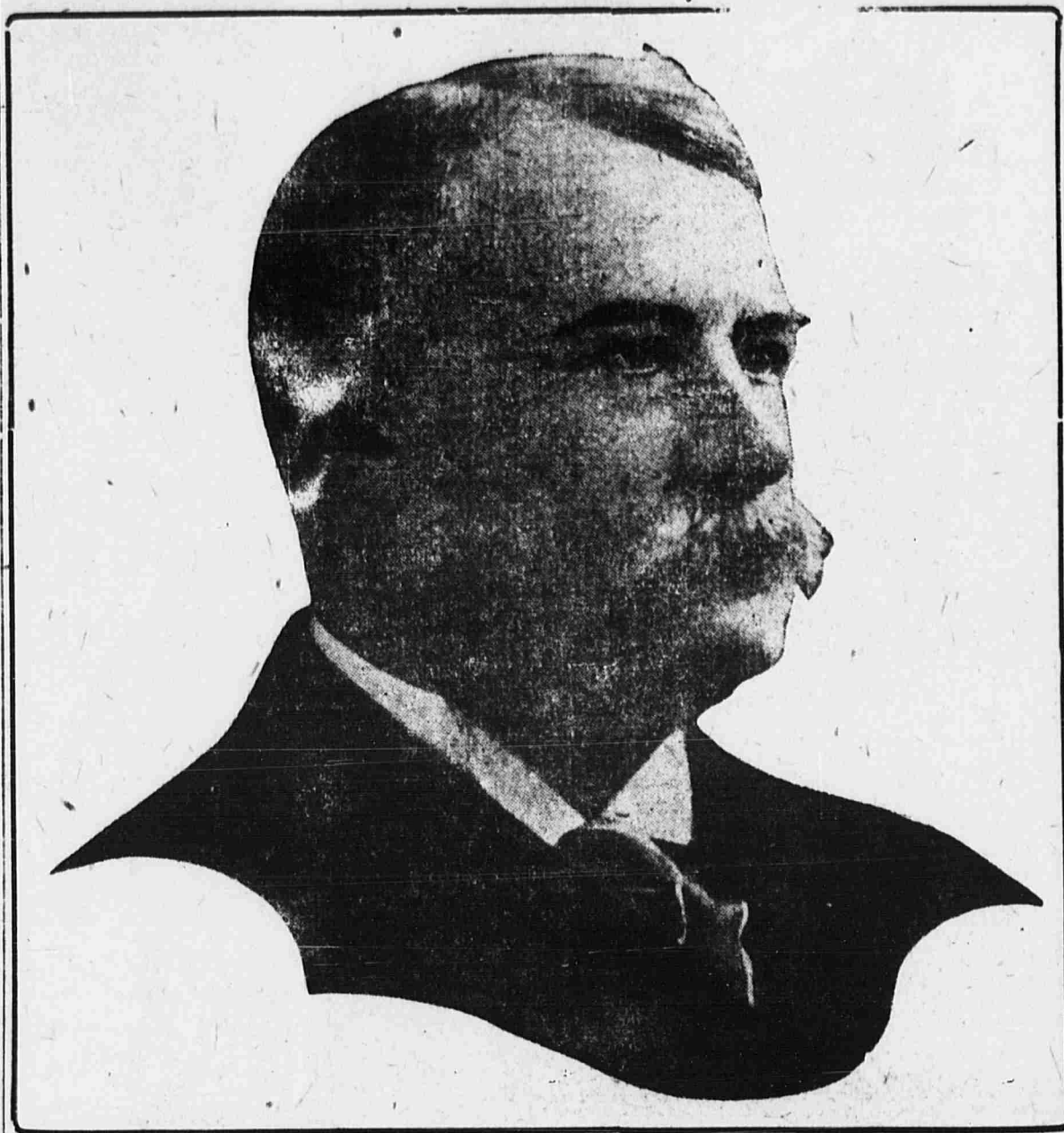
"My own feeling at this time was occasioned by a cablegram from British Columbia asking me to go there and look at some mining properties. I had been in Paris and was going to England when the cable came. Miss Browne and I were booked under the wrong names because the tickets were taken in the name of the steamship agent in Paris. I corrected this as soon as I learned of the mistake."

Doesn't Fear to Return.

"I had not expected to come to this country until next fall, when I hoped to see the cup yacht race, and I can't tell but that I will see them yet. I am afraid America will lose the

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PRESIDENT JOHN M. HALL, OF THE N. Y., N. H. & H. RR., WHO OPPOSES THE DEMANDS OF THE TRAINMEN.



LIQUOR MEN APPEAL TO LOW

They Want Him to Announce His Stand on the Proposed Increase in the Excise Tax Which Alarms Them.

WILL NOT RAISE BIG FUND.

At a meeting of the executive committee of all the district organizations of the Wine, Liquor and Beer Dealers' Associations of Manhattan and Brooklyn Boroughs, held this afternoon in Fraunce's Tavern, it was decided to make an appeal to Mayor Low to use his influence against the proposed increase in the excise tax. The object of this is to get the Mayor to announce his stand regarding the proposed legislation.

The meeting was called secretly and every effort was made to keep the proceedings from the public. Enough is known, however, to warrant the statement that it was decided not to raise a big fund to take to Albany for the purpose of smothering the measure, but to fight it on its own merits.

A suggestion was made, but not acted upon, that the liquor dealers of Greater New York organize an independent political party for self protection. This party, if formed, would also include butchers, ice dealers, brewers, mineral water manufacturers and all others having dealings with liquor stores. Although the project was not seriously considered it is likely to be started if the proposed law making the saloon tax \$1200 in Manhattan and \$900 in Brooklyn is passed.

A committee was appointed to go to Albany on Wednesday when there will be a hearing on the measure. This committee will argue against the passage of the bill. Saloonkeepers are alarmed because the impression is gaining ground that the Republican machine is disposed to increase the tax 50 per cent and drive scores of New York saloons out of the business.

BANKER'S SON DIED FROM BEATING.

German Tutor, Accused of Causing Boy's Death by Punishment, Is Under Arrest.

BERLIN, March 16.—A son of Director Koch, of the Deutsche Bank, was recently so severely beaten by his tutor that the lad, who was fifteen years of age, died from the effects of the castigation. The tutor has been arrested.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 3 P. M. Tuesday, for New York City and vicinity. Occasional rains to-night and Tuesday; fresh east to northeast winds.

So Ours a Cold in One Day. The Executive House of Representatives today passed the bill to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the duties of the United States Marshal.

BURDICK'S DAUGHTER TELLS OF MURDER.

Fifteen-Year-Old Marion Calmly Describes at the Inquest How She Learned of His Death, and Says Mother Was Not Wholly to Blame in Quarrel with Father.

(Special to The Evening World.)

BUFFALO, March 15.—Marion Burdick, the fifteen-year-old daughter of Edwin L. Burdick, at the inquest this afternoon told in a crowded court-room how she had learned of her father's murder. She is a frail, beautiful girl, very like her mother in features. Her eyes are large and dark, her skin dark and clear. Gowned in a simple school girl's frock of sombre black, with a plain hat of black straw, she made a pathetic figure. Her manner was wonderfully composed.

Not a trace of confusion was evident as she took the oath. Her answers at first were given in startled monosyllables. All through her examination she stuck to monosyllables wherever possible. There was a plaintive ring in her voice, but her tones were even.

"Now, Marian, began the District Attorney, 'tell us how you first came to hear of your father's death.'"

"Grandma told me," she said.

Q. What did she say? A. She said he

was dead.

Q. Where was that? A. Upstairs.

Q. Did you ask her how he died?

A. No.

Q. Did you tell grandma you wanted to see papa? A. No.

Q. Didn't you ask to see papa? A. No.

Q. Didn't you go into the den? A. No.

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MORGAN STEPS IN TO PREVENT GREAT STRIKE.

He Calls President Hall, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad to Confer with Him in This City, and a New Proposition Looking to Settlement Is Drawn Up.

MEANWHILE THE MEN ARE READY TO TIE UP THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.

Attitude of the President Is One of Uncompromising Hostility to Meeting Joint Committees of the Trainmen and Conductors -- Other Points in Controversy May Be Easily Smoothed Over.

The influence of J. Pierpont Morgan may at the last moment prevent a disastrous strike on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Mr. Morgan, whose sway in the directorate of the road is powerful, held a conference with President Hall at the Grand Central station to-day.

Immediately after this conference a new proposition was wired by the railroad officials from this city to the Grievance Committee of the dissatisfied employees, who were in session at New Haven. What the nature of this proposition is could not be learned, either here or in New Haven, but from the demeanor of the members of the committee when they adjourned for lunch it was evidently of a favorable character.

Valentine Fitzpatrick and C. W. Wilkins, the national officers of the two organizations of employees, gave out the following statement at New Haven this afternoon:

"The votes of the employees of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company on the question of a strike is now in the hands of committees being canvassed. These will not be made public until it is first communicated to President Hall. This morning the committee received a communication from President Hall. The contents we do not care to make public. We do not care to say more upon the situation at this time."

The general impression is that the President of the railroad has agreed to meet the men half way. Whether they will be content with anything less than a fulfillment of their demand that President Hall confer with a joint committee of conductors and trainmen depends largely upon the national officers of the Brotherhoods, who are in charge of the situation at New Haven.

HALL HURRIES TO MEET MORGAN.

Mr. Hall expected to remain in New Haven to-day in order to be on hand when the report of the Grievance Committee was ready, but he left suddenly for this city and two hours later met Mr. Morgan. The conference was not long. At its conclusion Mr. Morgan entered his cab and started for Wall street, while President Hall went on a mysterious mission.

Although President Hall was placed at the head of the New Haven road by the New England stockholders, he went in under a pledge to the Morgan-Rockefeller interests that their influence should not be over-riden. The desire of Mr. Morgan for peace between his railroad lines and their employees is well known, and the men are encouraged to believe that he will advise yielding to their demands rather than precipitate a strike at this time.

The men in the five yards of the New Haven road in this city are prepared to go out at a moment's notice. They say that this end of the road will be completely tied up. Although the company has not asked for police protection, the preparations have been made to have the reserves in the up-town precincts go out to protect the property of the company.

MEN ARE IN FAVOR OF A STRIKE.

The Grievance Committee, representing the members of the Order of Railway Conductors and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, at their meeting in New Haven to-day canvassed the ballot taken during the past week on the strike question. It was found that the resolution to strike unless the demands of the men are granted is almost unanimous.

So serious has the situation become that a citizens' committee has been appointed in New Haven to seek to bring about a meeting between President John M. Hall, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford, and the leaders of the dissatisfied employees.

The Grievance Committee has prepared a schedule of the demands of the men. This includes a ten-hour day with undiminished wages, pay for overtime, the placing of freight conductors in line for promotion to passenger trains, abolition of the rule requiring freight brakemen to make up trains in yards and a general readjustment of runs so as to allow men to sleep at home.

Accompanying this schedule, which will be presented for the first time, there will be sent to President Hall a recapitulation of the vote of the local brotherhoods and a demand that President Hall confer with a joint committee from the organizations of the trainmen and conductors.

President Hall has repeatedly announced that such a conference is out of the question. He will not allow the firemen to participate in a discussion concerning the wages of conductors, nor will he allow the conductors to have anything to say about wages that shall be paid to trainmen.

Although but two classes of employees are represented in the strike negotiations, the other men are in sympathy with the movement. By the provisions of their respective brotherhoods the engineers and firemen will not be allowed to draw trains manned by non-union crews. The train dispatchers and telegraph operators are in hearty sympathy with the strike movement, and can be depended upon to go out if necessary.

Third Grand Master Valentine Fitzpatrick, of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and Second Senior Grand Conductor C. W. Wilkins, of the Order of Railway Conductors, are in supreme control of the affairs of the

HALL TAKES TO MR. MORGAN'S PLAN TO AVERT BIG STRIKE.

President Hall, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, returned to Hartford this evening, after concluding his conference with J. Pierpont Morgan. It is believed he will lay before the men a proposition suggested by Mr. Morgan.

LATE RESULTS AT NEW ORLEANS.

Third Race—Velasquez 1, Aratoma 2, Dutch Carter 3.
Fourth Race—The Bronze Demon 1, Zirl 2, Zack Ford 3.
Fifth Race—Georgia Gardner 1, Latson 2, Accolade 3.

INTERBOROUGH COMPANY GETS BRONX FRANCHISE.
The Board of Aldermen to-day granted the New York City Interborough Railway Company a franchise, covering thirty-six miles of streets and avenues in the Bronx with additional privileges to cross the bridges and viaducts in the Bronx heretofore denied to the existing railway, the "Huckleberry road."